

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG MOPS ZA CG
SUBJ: PRESIDENT KAUNDA MEETING WITH MOBUTU IN LUBUMBASHI

REF: LUSAKA 2005

1. PRESIDENT KAUNDA MET FOR TWO HOURS ON JUNE 6 WITH ZAIRE
PRESIDENT MOBUTU IN LUBUMBASHI AT MOBUTU'S REQUEST. THE
TWO PRESIDENTS DISCUSSED BILATERAL RELATIONS CONCENTRATING
ON RECENT EVENTS IN SHABA.

2. AT A NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE MEETING PRESIDENT
KAUNDA SAID THAT ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE WERE FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS
AND THAT NO REBEL TROOPS WOULD USE ZAMBIA WITH ZAMBIA'S
KNOWLEDGE TO ATTACK ANY FRIENDLY COUNTRY LIKE ZAIRE.

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COMMENTING ON THE USE OF ZAMBIAN TERRITORY BY KATANGESE
SOLDIERS, PRESIDENT KAUNDA DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY
THAT THEY HAD USED ZAMBIA TO LAUNCH THEIR ATTACK BUT SAID
THAT IF THAT WERE THE CASE IT WAS DONE WITHOUT ZAMBIA'S
KNOWLEDGE. HE SAID THE FACT THAT ZAMBIA HAD ARRESTED AND
DISARMED REBEL SOLDIERS IN ZAMBIA'S NORTH WESTERN PROVINCE
WAS PROOF OF ZAMBIA'S CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE.

3. THE PRESIDENT PRAISED PRESIDENT MOBUTU SAYING HE HAD "ALWAYS OPENLY AND PRIVATELY EXPRESSED MY VIEWS ON HIS LEADERSHIP." ACCORDING TO OTHER SOURCES, PRESIDENT KAUNDA ALSO POINTED OUT THAT A LASTING SOLUTION TO THE REBEL ATTACKS LAY IN A POLITICAL SOLUTION BETWEEN THE PARTIES INVOLVED INCLUDING NEIGHBORING ANGOLA.

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S TRIP WAS BILLED IN THE PRESS AS A FENCE MENDING EXERCISE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS FOLLOWING THE REBEL INCURSION INTO SHABA. SINCE HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS RETURN FROM THE US, PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAS COME CLOSE TO ADMITTING THAT THE KATANGESE, ALBEIT UNBEKNOWNST TO THE GRZ, DID TRANSIT ZAMBIAN TERRITORY. HIS TWO HOUR MEETING WITH MOBUTU WAS MOST LIKELY AIMED AT CLEARING THE AIR. PRESUMABLY THE TWO PRESIDENTS ALSO DISCUSSED ANGOLA BUT THERE IS NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON WHETHER PRESIDENT KAUNDA USED THE VISIT AS AN ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE THE DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA. END COMMENT.
CLINGERMAN

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